

S.No.	Name of Circle	Areas covered
		Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No. 29 of 2000) dated 25th August, 2000.
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	Entire area covered by Eastern Uttar Pradesh with the following as its boundary districts towards Western Uttar Pradesh Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, Kanpur and Jalaun.
21.	West Bengal	Entire area falling within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim including the areas covered by Kolkata Telephone System.

Illegal operations by SBI's Overseas Branch in Ahmedabad

1747. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India lost more than Rs. 80 crores in the bullion scam due to illegal operations made by the bank's overseas branch in Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bank handed over gold to private parties without receiving payment for the same; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the erring officers who contravened all banking norms and allowed to keep gold stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that its overseas branch at Ahmedabad had been delivering gold to its customers against payment orders/cheques issued by banks, treating those on par with cash. The Bank is reported to have suffered losses of Rs. 39.7 crores in this business due to dishonour of pay orders issued by Classic Co-operative bank Ltd., Ahmedabad.

(c) SBI has reported that it has completed investigations from the staff accountability angle and initiated disciplinary proceedings after consultations with the Central Vigilance Commission. The Bank has further reported that it has

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suspended two of its officials and the branch officials who were connected with the gold bullion business had been shifted out of the branch. The bank has also reported that the case has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation, who have started their investigations.

Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

†1748. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes are still in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete steps to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Union Government has taken a number of steps to curb the circulation of fake currency notes which, *inter-alia*, include setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes, scaling up vigilance by the Border Security Force/ Custom Authorities to prevent smuggling of such currency notes into the country; incorporation of special security features in higher denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for benefit of public. Further, a High Level Technical Committee of Experts with representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Sectt., Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses has been constituted for examining the whole gamut of problem caused by circulation of fake currency notes.

Establishing National Rural Bank of India

†1749. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of rural banks of the country are performing well and the association of the employees of rural banks *i.e.*, All India Rural

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.